

18 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Newsletter Poll

1. As I promised at yesterday morning's staff meeting, I have conducted an informal poll of friends and colleagues, mostly from the DDO, on the subject of a periodic CIA newsletter. The reactions ranged across the entire spectrum. Some officers felt that such a newsletter would be entirely unnecessary. Typical comments included: "I know enough to do my job"; "it makes us just like the Department of Agriculture"; "enough information comes out in Employee Notices and Bulletins anyway"; etc. Also, there was concern that such a bulletin might be a frequent source of leaks. Two officers, however, thought that such a bulletin would be welcomed in the field, where perceptions of what is going on in Washington are distorted and vague at best. Another believed that the bulletin would be warmly received "by the troops" here at Headquarters.

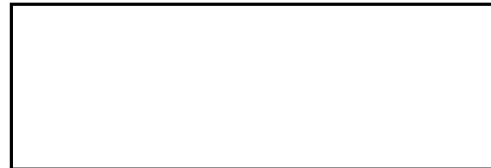
2. Conversations with three DDO clericals tended to support the latter conclusion. All were enthusiastic over the idea of a newsletter; but there was some confusion and perplexity when I asked what they thought such a newsletter might contain. The most concrete response, from a secretary in NE Division, was "job openings!"

3. The question of whether we ought to have a newsletter, how often it should come out, what its format should be, what its contents should consist of, etc., are quite involved and probably should be referred to the EAG for consideration; but I think that the comments elicited by my informal poll are worth noting. First, a newsletter sent to the Field might make a useful contribution to overseas morale. The impact of such a newsletter could, however, be vitiated by excessive attention to headquarters concerns or the pre-occupations of the more overt side of the house. Perhaps there should be a DDO newsletter aimed at the field. AF Division, its Chief of

Operations informs me, is seriously considering a periodic bulletin of sorts for its stations and bases.

4. Secondly, much of what people really want to know about management decisions that affect their lives is available in the various bulletins and notices the DDA currently issues. Yet, there is a strong feeling among lower-level employees that they are not "getting the word." Is this a problem, I wonder, to be solved by a newsletter or by better supervision at the middle-management level? Take, for example, the young lady's gripe about job notices; this is an issue, I should think, for DDO personnel management to solve rather than one to be handled by a newsletter. In any case, more conscientious supervisory practices should be able to cope with the pervasive, ill-defined feeling among lower-level employees that they are being left out of things.

5. One DDO officer who cast a negative vote had some experience in editing newsletters in private industry. He echoed a concern of mine that while the first issue of any newsletter tends to be fairly useful and interesting, the quality of succeeding editions often declines as people run out of new things to say. This point, plus the comment I made previously that any newsletter would inevitably be weighted towards the more overt side of the house, suggests the following alternative proposition: a non-periodic, personal letter, from you, the DDCI, to the troops. Such a letter would have certain advantages, it seems to me. First, since it would not be expected to be of any necessary size or come out at any particular interval, it would include only the subjects of substantial importance and universal concern which you felt needed communicating to all Agency personnel; second, as your personal organ, it would not generate inter-directorate squabbling over content, editorial policy or control. The various DD's would not feel that their particular hobby horses had to be included, over the dead bodies of their peers (perhaps too grim a scenario). I believe that most of the employees who would object to the traditional sort of newsletter would have no problems with this "newsletter."



R/DDCI

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ROUTINE SLIP

TO		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DDCI		X	18 Aug	AM
					

Date _____

Chronic

Remarks: Per your attached note, advised Chief, Covert Action Group, that hereafter memos releasing CIA proposals to Working Group would be signed by you. These will be forwarded to you with a covering memo indicating that intra-Agency coordination has been accomplished, with any dissents, issues raised, etc., outlined in sufficient detail. Per your request, origins of proposals and Agency reactions thereto will also be included.

STATSTAT While I think [redacted] and I have worked everything out procedurally, I still suggest you raise this issue with Bill Wells at your forthcoming breakfast. If nothing else, he might feel you were restricting his authority and hence _____ Date
could use a little soothing! _____

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